

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon careful and complete consideration of the Final Office Action dated May 24, 2004, applicants have filed a request for continued examination of the subject application and have amended the claims which, when considered in conjunction with the comments herein below, are deemed to place the present application into condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

Applicants have amended the claims by focusing on the preferred embodiments of the claimed additive. As now amended, the present invention is directed to the principle and preferred structure of the additive of the present invention as represented by Formula (II) found on page 18 of the subject specification. That is, the formula defines the additive as a polyamide having pending carboxylic groups linked to a polycarbonate. The polyamide in this respect may be connected to one or more polycarbonates, with one to three polycarbonates being preferred. An embodiment wherein the polyamide is connected to two polycarbonates is most preferred.

Dependent claims further specifying the preferred embodiment were added. Support for all the newly added claims can be found on page 18 of the subject specification.

The final Office Action dated May 24, 2004 had rejected the pending claims of the application under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,760,143 to Kubo et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Kubo et al.") or JP 1-252640.

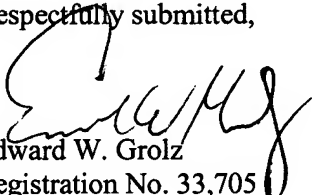
As presented above, the present invention is directed to an additive defined by having one polyamide block and one or more pending polycarbonate blocks. The claimed additive is a superior additive in relation to the intended use, namely the process for increasing the molecular weight of a given polyamide or oligoamide.

Kubo et al. teaches an ester-amide block copolymer comprising several alternating blocks of ester units or amide units. This is contrary to the claimed additive of the present invention where one polyamide block is connective with pending polycarbonate blocks (as drivable from Formula II). Kubo et al. only disclose high molecular weight compounds comprising alternating units derived from amide or ester. It is further pointed out that the block copolymers disclosed by Kubo et al. are not intended for use in polycondensation processes for increasing the molecular weight of a given polyamide or oligoamide. Instead, the block copolymers disclosed by Kubo et al. are to be used as material for producing automotive parts, as well as coverings and coatings for such parts. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention differs from the teachings of Kubo et al. such that any allegation of Kubo et al. suggesting or disclosing the present invention must fail.

Similarly, with regard to JP 1-252640, it too only discloses a copolymer comprising alternating units derived from amide and ester (or carbonate). A structure in accordance with the present invention (i.e. Formula II), however, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Japanese reference. It is noted that the copolymer disclosed in the Japanese document is used as elastomeric molding material and not as an additive to be used in a condensation reaction of a polyamide or oligoamide for purposes of increasing the molecular weight thereof. Thus, as was the case with Kubo et al., the Japanese reference fails to teach or suggest an additive defined by having one polyamide block and one or more pending polycarbonate blocks. For this reason, any §102(b) or §103(a) rejections based on the Japanese reference would also fail.

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims in the application as presently submitted contain patentable subject matter and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward W. Grolz
Registration No. 33,705

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

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